

In re Appl. No. 09/720,554

trihaloalkylsulfonic acid ion, and nicotinic acid ion. When either or both  $x_1$ - or  $x_2$ - are not the prescribed fluorine-containing anions, these anions are allowed to be exchanged with the desired counter ions according to the aforesaid conventional method after completion of the reaction.

Throughout Formulae 2 to 5, L denotes an appropriate leaving group, usually, a monovalent group of aniline or its derivative such as anilino, p-toluidino, p-methoxyanilino, p-ethoxycarbonylanilino, or N-acetylanilino group. For example, the compounds represented by Formulae 2 to 5 can be prepared by the method as disclosed in Japanese Patent Kokai No. 316/655/98 applied for by the same applicant as the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph on pages 14-15 lines 27-29 and 1-25, as follows:

The light-resistant improvers used in the present invention are, for example, nitroso compounds such as nitrosodiphenylamine, nitrosoaniline, nitrosophenol, and nitrosonaphthol; and metal complexes such as tetracyanoquinodimethane compounds, diimmonium salts, "NKX-1199" (bis'2'-chloro-3-methoxy-4-(2-methoxyethoxy)dithiobenzyl'nickel) produced by hayashibara Biochemical Laboratories, Inc., Okayama, Japan, and formazane metal complexes, which can be used in an appropriate combination, if necessary. Preferable light-resistant

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improvers are those which contain nitroso compounds or formazane metal complexes, and most preferable ones are nitroso compounds which have a phenylpyridylamine skelton as disclosed in Japanese Patent Kokai No. 344,750/00, titled "Phenylpyridylamine derivatives" applied for by the same applicant as the present invention, and others which contain metal complexes comprising one or more formazane compounds as ligands and metals such as nickel, zinc, cobalt, iron, copper, palladium, etc. When used in combination with these light-resistant improvers, the cyanine dyes of the present invention can be effectively prevented from undesirable changes in deterioration, fading, color change, and quality change, which may be induced by the exposure of environmental lights such as reading- and natural-lights, without lowering the solubility of the cyanine dyes in organic solvents and substantially deteriorating their preferable optical characteristics. As a composition ratio, 0.01-5 moles, and preferably 0.1-1 mole of a light-resistant improver(s) can be incorporated into one mole of the present cyanine dye(s) while increasing and decreasing the ratio within the range.

Please amend the paragraph on pages 15-17, lines 26-29, 1-29 and 1-3 as follows:

<sup>SUP 33</sup> The cyanine dyes of the present invention exert a totally no-problematic solubility in various organic solvents on actual uses, and this does not substantially restrict

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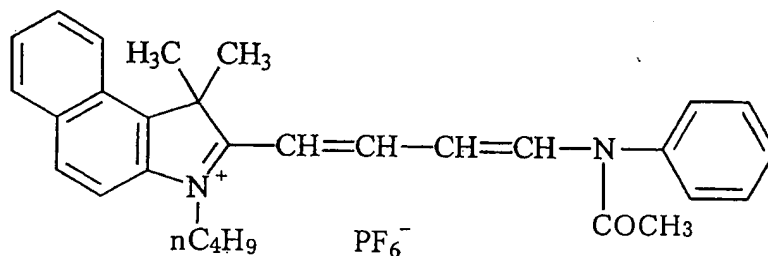
organic solvents used for coating the cyanine dyes on substrates. Thus, in the preparation of optical recording media according to the present invention, for example, TFP frequently used to prepare optical recording media or the following organic solvents other than TFP can be selectively and appropriately used in combination, if necessary:

Hydrocarbons such as hexane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, dimethylcyclohexane, ethylcyclohexane, isopropylcyclohexane, tert-butylcyclohexane, octane, cyclooctane, benzene, toluene, and xylene; halogen compounds such as carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dibromoethane, trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, chlorobenzene, bromobenzene, and  $\alpha$ -dichlorobenzene; alcohols and phenols such as methanol, ethanol, 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, 1-methoxy-2-propanol, 1-ethoxy-2-propanol, 1-butanol, 1-methoxy-2-butanol, 3-methoxy-1-butanol, 4-methoxy-1-butanol, isobutyl alcohol, pentyl alcohol, isopentyl alcohol, cyclohexanol, 2-methoxyethanol (methyl cellosolve), 2-ethoxyethanol (ethyl cellosolve), 2-isopropoxy-1-ethanol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerine, phenol, benzyl alcohol, cresol, and diacetone alcohol; ethers such as diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydropyran, 1,4-dioxane, anisole, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, dicyclohexyl-18-crown-6, methyl carbitol, and ethylcarbitol;

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Q3 ketones such as furfural, acetone, 1,3-diacetyl acetone, ethyl methyl ketone, and cyclohexanone; esthers such as ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, and trimethyl phosphate; amides such as formamide, N-methyl formamide, N,N-dimethylformamide, and hexamethylphosphoric triamide; nitro compounds such as nitromethane and nitrobenzene; nitriles such as acetonitrile, and propionitrile; amines such as ethylenediamine, pyridine, piperidine, morpholine, and N-methylpyrrolidone; and sulfur-containing compounds such as dimethylsulfoxide and sulfolane.

Page 27, please replace Chemical Formula 15, lines 5-9, with the following new Chemical Formula 15:



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